(c) and (d). The Scheme is being implemented by the State Government depending upon availability of funds.

[English]

Collection Centre at Surat

3370. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade Surat Collection Centre into a full fledged passport office to avoid the inordinate delay in issue of passport to the persons of the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this likely to be upgraded; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). There is no proposal at present to upgrade the Collection Centre at Surat into a full fledged passport office. The Standing Committee recommendations are that apart from other reasons, there must be at least 50,000 applications for a full fledged office to be opened. The number of applications received from the District of Surat and the contiguous districts of Bharuch, Dang and Valsad in 1995 was only 27,268.

[Translation]

Pak's Anti-India Propaganda

3371. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the High Commission of Pakistan located in Nepal is indulging in anti-India propaganda and also providing protection to the extremists;

(b) whether the Government have taken-up the matter with Nepal; and

(c) if so, the response of Nepal thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). We have received reports that the Pakistani mission in Nepal has been engaging in a number of anti-Indian activities. This matter has been taken up with the Nepalese authorities. During the visit of the Foreign Minister of Nepal to India in August 1996, the subject of security and measures to counter terrorism was discussed. Both sides reiterated their commitment not to allow activities in the territory of either country prejudicial to the security of the other. It was also decided that in order to discourage movement of undesirable elements across the border, there should be a more effective system of monitoring of movement across the border. Regular exchange of views takes place between concerned authorities in India and Nepal to tackle specific issues.

Financial assistance to Maharashtra

3372. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have provided any assistance to the Government of Maharashtra for the procurement of essential medicines and other essential equipments including the Surgical equipments for eliminating paucity of these in many Government Hospitals;

(b) if so, the amount of the assistance provided therefor;

(c) whether the said amount has been properly and fully utilised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Under National Programme for Control of Blindness the following financial assistance was provided to Maharashtra during last three years

Year	Cash Grant for Drugs and consumables.	Commodity (Rs. in lakhs) Sutures	Ophthalmic Equipments.
1994-95	20.00	112.57	15.38
1995-96	39.00	42.21	120.40
1996-97	50.00		Not yet supplied.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The centralised purchase has been done by Govt. of India for sutures and ophthalmic equipments and the same is utilised for the purpose for which it was released. Under cash grants the State has utilised a sum of Rs. 36.50 and Rs. 42.65 lakhs during the year 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively for the purchase of drugs and consumables.

[English]

Pattern of CBSE Examinations

3373. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Board of Secondary Examinations proposes to switch over from the pattern of objective type questions to some other pattern;